GHOST RIDER WOLVERINE

WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE

MARVEL

OMEGA

1

PERCY
SHAW
BEREDO

PARENTAL ADVISORY

CEDAR CITY, UTAH.

Turn off your headlights.

What do you think? How about that one?

Biggest house in the neighborhood? @#$% yeah.

The humans took away more than our home.

They stole our right to even *exist.*

CHOOM

I don't care if every last one of them dies.

Holy @#$%, you're amazing.

Let's get the &%$# out of here.

Wait...

What is that?

SCRIIINCH

Oh, @#$%. Oh...

Waaaaaa!

Waaaaaa!

KRUNK

Waaaaa!

Kill it.

WEAPON PLUS LAB: PROJECT HELLFIRE.

Kill the mutant.

NO.

Don't you @#$%^ dare.

I'll deal with you later, Johnny Blaze.

Hnngh!

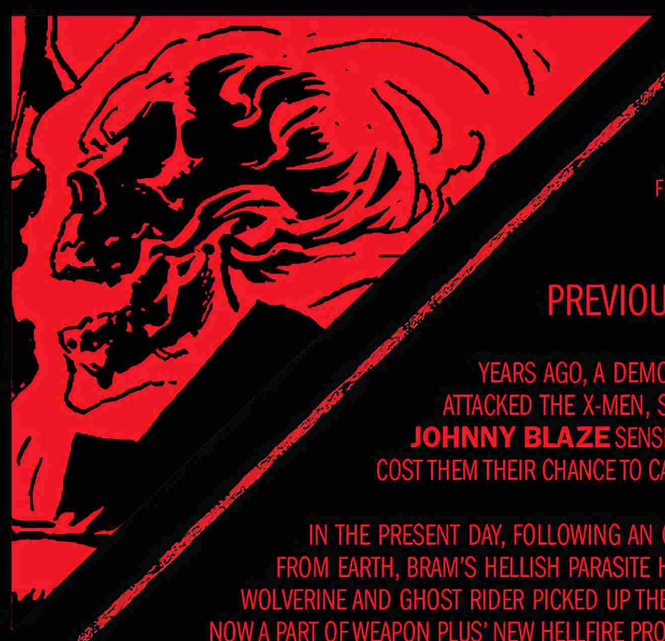
The Rider wants out...

...but this helmet...the same helmet that controls Wolverine...

...is barnacled onto me...

...and my body is not my own.

It's like someone flooded the engine and tossed away the keys.



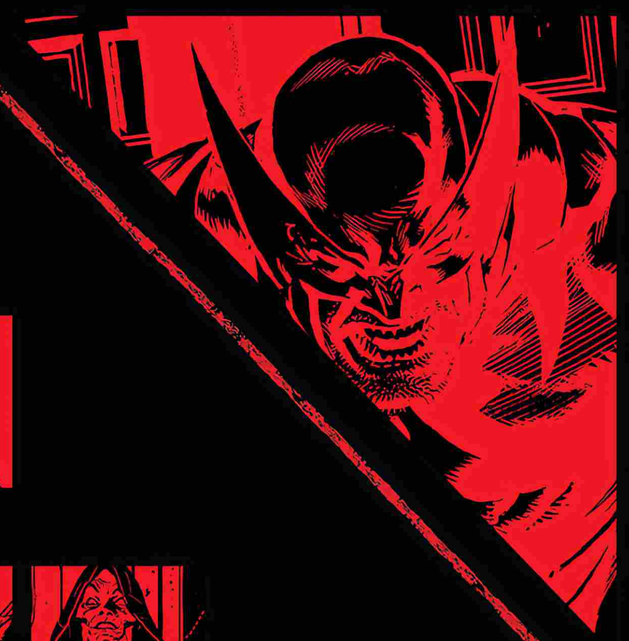
WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A **SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE** IS BORN, AND **JOHNNY BLAZE** FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO THE **GHOST RIDER!**

PREVIOUSLY...

YEARS AGO, A DEMON ATTACHED TO A YOUNG ORPHAN NAMED **BRAM** ATTACKED THE X-MEN, SETTING **WOLVERINE** ON HIS TRAIL. SEPARATELY, **JOHNNY BLAZE** SENSED THE DEMON'S PRESENCE, BUT A MISUNDERSTANDING COST THEM THEIR CHANCE TO CAPTURE THE DEMON.

IN THE PRESENT DAY, FOLLOWING AN ORCHIS COUP THAT BANISHED MOST OF MUTANTKIND FROM EARTH, BRAM'S HELLISH PARASITE HAS RESURFACED, HUNTING THE REMAINING MUTANTS. WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER PICKED UP THE TRAIL AGAIN, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THE DEMON IS NOW A PART OF WEAPON PLUS' NEW HELLFIRE PROGRAM.

THE PAIR INFILTRATED WEAPON PLUS' HEADQUARTERS, BUT THEY WERE CAPTURED BY THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, FATHER PIKE, ALLOWING HIM TO ENACT THE NEXT STAGE OF HIS PLAN: GRAFTING BRAM'S DEMON TO WOLVERINE. THE NEW CREATION, DUBBED "**THE HELLVERINE**," TOOK JOHNNY'S BIKE, RESUMING THE HUNT FOR MUTANTS.



WITH AN UNCANNY HEALING FACTOR AND ADAMANTIUM CLAWS, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS **LOGAN** PROTECTS THE INNOCENT AS **WOLVERINE!**

JOHNNY BLAZE
GHOST RIDER

LOGAN
WOLVERINE

BRAM

ADA FLORES

JEFF BANNISTER

TALIA WARROAD

FATHER PIKE

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

GHOST RIDER WOLVERINE

WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE

OMEGA

"OUR BETTER MONSTERS"

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SOMEWHERE IN TENNESSEE.

We're not going to make it.

Whatever trouble's going down in the Southwest with Logan and Johnny, it'll be over long before we get there, Talia.

Settle down, Bannister.

I been traveling with a very special sort of mechanic.

He added some mods...

...including *hellfire boosters.*

FWOOM

I really preferred my life before I met you and Johnny.

Then you probably don't want to know what we're dealing with...

...but I'm gonna tell you anyway.

"Its name is *Bagra-ghul*...

"...and it is a creation of *Mephisto*.

"He was bored...

"...by the mundanity of the suffering all around him.

"This devil, as we all know, has style.

"You can find him in the finest silks, the most decadent desserts...

"...ostentatious architecture, luscious guitar licks and sumptuous curves of flesh.

"Sin can be a beautiful thing.

"*Bagra-ghul* was created...

"...to make art out of punishment, art out of death.

"That is its compulsion.

"To kill beautifully and erect bloody monuments in celebration of Mephisto."

But they're not just monuments, they're ciphers. They're translatable.

That one says "*King.*" Another says "*Worship Him.*"

Another says "*He Will Rise.*"

I'm going to put some images in your head for a minute, okay?

Don't get freaked out.

Too late.

"Bram's parents worshipped the dark.

"Under a black moon...

"...the ceremony was performed on the grave of a man hanged for murder.

"They wanted a child who would serve as a vessel for Mephisto's will.

"And so Bagra-ghul was grafted onto the boy.

"Nine months later, in the birthing ward, an orderly found a bloodied baby screaming alone."

Everyone else--the doctor, the nurses, the parents--were not only dead, but also torn asunder and forged into a nightmare sculpture.

SCREE

They left a trail of carnage behind that *Project Hellfire* followed.

So you're telling me the government is trying to weaponize this @#$%?

"And Wolverine, the ultimate killing machine, who's had a history of being weaponized by governments, delivered himself right to their front door?

"That's #%$^& great."

⇉Gasp⇇

⇉Weez⇇ No.

No, this is wrong. ⇉Koff⇇...

Father Pike?

Bram... so you *did* survive?

I'm--I'm sorry. I made a *mistake.*

Please. I thought I would feel better without it.

But I feel carved out and empty. It's like I haven't eaten anything in a hundred years.

I want it back. I ***need*** it back.

I can offer only a glimpse of what could have been yours.

Yes.

That's right, Hellverine. Kill the child.

Kill *all* the mutants...

...and make monuments of their slaughter.

NO!

SKISH

What is he doing?!

No...I... won't!

SKASH

Harrrr!

SNAKT

You serve Mephisto.

You serve the United States government.

And you serve *me!*

"Now listen very closely.

MUTANTS (97) DETECTED.
43 MILES.

"There's a hidden mutant enclave not far from you. Up in the mountains.

"That's where those terrorists came from.

"Burn them to the ground."

⇉Nnhhhh⇇

Silence. Do you hear that?

Looks like we're alone.

You're never alone in the company of shadows.

This place reeks of dark magic.

Johnny...

...come back to me.

OZZZT

I got you.

Talia...

What the @#$% happened here?

They got him. They got--

Wolverine!

I've got eyes on Wolverine!

Take a look at this hardware and monitoring system. It's tied directly to Logan.

Remember what you told me before? About how malware takes many forms?

Think that's what's happening here.

They've got Wolverine--through some combo of demonic possession and nightmare algorithm.

You object to me pulling the plug?

Do it.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

Hrk!

ZZZTT

CH-CHUNK

HARRR!

TNK SLSHH

You're an unworthy vessel, Logan.

If you don't appreciate the gift you've been given...

...we'll reclaim it.

Please...

Johnny... I know you just came back to us.

But we need *the other guy* now.

We've done what we can.

But you're the only one who can stop him.

He's already killed.

And he's going to kill again, but the next time, it might be hundreds.

Go get him, GHOST RIDER.

We've done bad things together.

My whole life has been a trail of police reports...

...of bodies torn apart and stitched together in monstrous designs.

"Ada helped us find a way to work discreetly.

"Her position as a social worker put her in regular contact with the homeless, the addicted, the broken and lost."

She did this because she loved me... to death.

But it wasn't enough.

"So when *they* found us, when you had the opportunity to feed more widely...

"...you took it."

You killed Ada and one of Father Pike's men...

...because you wanted to show him what you were capable of.

After that, I wanted you gone. Out of me.

But now I realize...I can't live without you.

Together, we'll paint the world as red as Mephisto.

We'll start by--

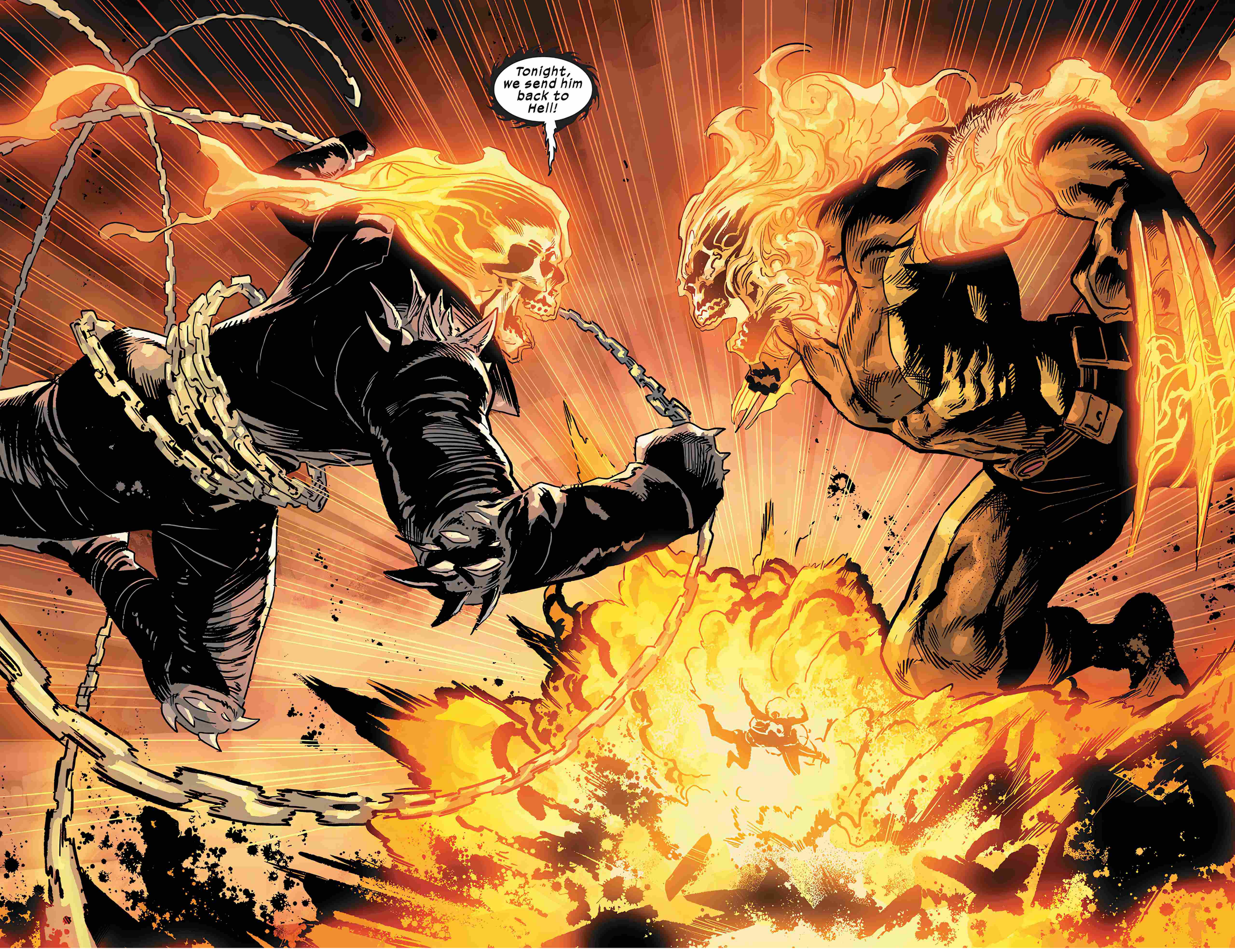
FWAM

SCREEE

DOOF

We've been hunting this demon for so many years.

HRRRR...


Tonight, we send him back to Hell!

I know you're in there, Wolverine. Somewhere.

If you don't sever your connection to the demon, you will die with it.

KUNCH

You have failed Mephisto!

RUMBLE

I will make a monument of your bones for every demon in Hell to piss on.

FOOO

The prime arsenal of Hell.

Show us you are stronger, *Bagra-ghul.*

@#%& off.

I'm done.

Then come, Bagra-ghul...

If your host won't allow you to serve Mephisto's will... then return to us.

Return to Bram.

Not so fast, bub.

I'm not--*hrk*--done being the bad guy yet.

Mephisto, I beseech you!

SHRRRRK

Return my wrathful soldier to me! Return the pitchfork with which I toil for you on Earth. Return--

I got your pitchfork right here.

SHUNK

The Spirit is a curse. But it's a curse I have to live with.

We're entwined at this point, one and the same.

I know the Rider feels the same as me.

So as powerful as Wolverine might be...

...Bram is home for Bagra-ghul.

They've killed together...

...now they'll die together.

Caught in the punishing light of my *damnation stare.*

They have been cast into Hell...

...but this tortured amalgam of their memory will remain.

Hurts like hell, don't it?

Always does.

But we keep on going anyway.

Yeah...

LATER. WEAPON PLUS: PROJECT HELLFIRE LAB.

Destruction of government property's a federal crime.

C.I.A. should fire your ass, Bannister.

I'll tell them some goth witch made me do it.

Watch your mouth, or I'll fill it with flies and spiders.

I always thought dealing with the *mutants* was impossible.

But you and Johnny...you're living on a different level of crazy.

We been chasing this one a long time-- haven't we, Johnny?

A long time.

And in the end, we were fighting ourselves.

First time I met you, I thought you were a monster.

And you were right.

Turns out it takes one to know one.

Wolverine was able to fight the possession because he's fighting a darkness inside him every damn day.

It's so much easier to let go, to rage and punish, than it is to hold back and do right.

That's the long struggle of folks like us.

The best we can do is lean in to our better monsters...

...to protect the rest of you from worse.

THE END...?

NEXT

GHOST RIDER
RIDES AGAIN IN

GHOST RIDER
#18

WOLVERINE'S MISSION ACROSS THE
MARVEL UNIVERSE CONTINUES IN

WOLVERINE #37

"LAST MUTANT STANDING"
PART 1